

RFP Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Vendors Responding to RFP Number 3876 for MSU Enterprise Digital Signage
From: Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.
Date: May 24, 2016
Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications
Contact Name: Bill Brinkley
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RFP Number 3876 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Title page, INVITATION is modified as follows:

INVITATION: Sealed proposals, subject to the attached conditions, will be received at this office until ~~June 2, 2016~~ **June 6, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m.** Central Time for the acquisition of the products/services described below for Mississippi State University.

2. Title page, third box is modified as follows:

PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO RFP NO. 3876 due June 2, 2016 June 6, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m., ATTENTION: Bill Brinkley
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3. Section VII Technical Specifications, Item 4 Project Schedule is amended as follows:

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date for RFP	04/19/2016
Second Advertisement Date for RFP	04/26/2016
Vendor Web Conference	3:00 p.m. Central Time on 05/05/2016
Deadline for Vendor's Written Questions	3:00 p.m. Central Time on 5/10/2016
Deadline for Questions Answered and Posted to ITS Web Site	05/19/2016
Open Proposals	06/02/2016 06/06/16
Evaluation of Proposals	06/07/16 - 06/29/16
ITS Board Presentation	07/21/2016

Task	Date
Contract Negotiation Completed	07/29/2016
Proposed Project Implementation Start-up	08/01/2016
Project Go-Live Deadline	09/02/2016

The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: Page 33, section 5. Technical Requirements, 5.2 says "All submissions must provide three (3) references from Higher Education clients using the proposed digital signage solution. Would the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services be willing to accept our industry in place of Higher Education?

Response: MSU prefers references from Higher Education. You may submit other references, but each will be scored lower than higher education references.

Question 2: Can you extend the bid date so that the vendors have time to adjust proposals based on the answers?

Response: Proposal due date is now June 6, 2016. See numbers 1, 2, 3 above.

Question 3: Will there be an opportunity to ask follow up questions after answers are released?

Response: No

Question 4: Will the purchaser be ITS or MSU?

Response: The purchase will be made using funds held by the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration Bureau of Building, and the equipment will be installed at, and become the property of, Mississippi State University.

Question 5: Is the purchaser sales tax exempt?

Response: Yes

Question 6: What is the address of the physical location of installation?

Response: The street address not yet assigned, as the building is under construction. The new building is located at the intersection of Barr Avenue and George Perry Street on the campus of Mississippi State University (zip code=39762).

Question 7: Does the client have virtual environment that the vendor can reside their application on.

Response: Yes, the intent is to host any required server software on MSU's existing virtual server infrastructure (HyperV or VMWare, as appropriate).

Question 8: Page 34, Section 5.4, 5.4.9 1. What specific pre-produced content would the client like to display? 2. Would you like the vendor to supply a specific server for the streaming video? 3. If there is a current streaming video server, what protocol does

the streaming video server utilize? 4. Does the client want to display video files or streaming video? 5. Where will the audio be coming from; a video or streaming file?

- Response:
1. Requirement 5.4.9 is meant to indicate that the general informational signs must be able to display existing video files in a standard format (typically H.264/MPEG) as well as live streaming video.
 2. No
 3. Yes, MSU currently uses a local streaming video server based upon Adobe Flash Media Server, but other streaming solutions would be considered.
 4. Both
 5. Both/either, depending on which is being displayed

Question 9: Page 35, Section 5.4, 5.4.13 1. Can ITS please define “CAS”?

Response: CAS refers to MSU’s “Central Authentication Service”, a local implementation of the open-source service and protocols defined at <https://github.com/apereo/cas/blob/master/cas-server-documentation/protocol/CAS-Protocol-Specification.md>

Question 10: Page 35, Section 5.4, 5.4.14 1. What brand and manufacturer of Emergency Notification Systems will the vendor be required to connect to?
2. How many types of Emergency Notification Systems will the vendor be required to connect to? If there is more than one (1) type, please provide a list of brand and manufacturer.

Response: The vendor will not be required to connect to any particular emergency notification system, as MSU will perform that integration at a later date. Any proposed solution must support OASIS CAP v1.2, to facilitate MSU later implementing that integration.

Question 11: Page 35, Section 5.4, 5.4.15

1. What mapping features would the client like to display? a. How many buildings will be included in the maps? b. How many floors will be included in the maps? c. Will all maps be interactive? 2. Can ITS or MSU provide PDFs or SVGs of the buildings that will be included in the maps for the system.

Response: 1. Responding vendors should detail what mapping capabilities their solution provides. Beyond wayfinding, MSU has no specific mapping requirement, but will evaluate each proposed solution on its potential future applications.

1a. One

1b. Three upper floors of classrooms and two lower floors of parking

1c. The only maps required to be interactive in this initial implementation will be the ones displayed on the three wayfinding signs.

2. Yes, see attached PDF files E3.3, E3.4, E3.5, E4.3, E4.4, E4.5 for illustrations of the three classroom floors. Vendors should note that these are not “as-built” drawings, that they are subject to change, and that they should be used/considered only for illustration purposes at this point.

Question 12: 5.4.16 1. What specific content does the client want to display for room scheduling?

Response: The room signs must support customizable, static backgrounds (for branding, etc) and must display dynamic, configurable schedules based upon data fed from MSU's existing Ad Astra and Microsoft Exchange systems. For classrooms, such schedules might show the date/time, duration, course name, and instructor name for the class currently in session and the next few class sessions scheduled to meet in that classroom (all fed from Ad Astra). For study rooms and conference rooms, etc., such schedules might show the date/time, duration, name of person who reserved the room, and a description of the meeting/reservation.

Question 13: Page 36, Section 6.1.2.3 Equipment Requirements

1. Can ITS provide the vendors with construction documents or design documents before the bid is due? 2. Can ITS provide elevation plans where the monitor will be mounted to the glass? 3. Can ITS provide pictures of the glass wall where monitors will be mounted?

Response: 1. Other than the reference documents noted and provided in response to question 11, no.
2. No
3. No

Question 14: We are looking for clarification on the two event system integrations being requested (Ad Astra & Microsoft Exchange). Will both event management systems need to be included in the meeting room signs? If yes, we want to point out that the two different integrations will not be able to speak with one another and over lapping booking may occur. While we have the ability to integrate with both Ad Astra and Microsoft Exchange, Ad Astra functionality can be limited on an interactive sign. If the meeting room signs are going to be interactive, it is recommended that Microsoft Exchange be utilized.

Response: Noted. A given room sign will only be fed from a single source. A classroom sign will only be fed from Ad Astra, and a meeting room or conference room sign will only be fed from Microsoft Exchange. The classroom signs will not be configured as interactive, but some of the meeting room and conference room signs will be configured as interactive.

Question 15: What is the total number of endpoints that the University estimates will need to have interactive wayfinding/pathing to? This total number should include all staff/faculty, points of interest, meeting rooms, class rooms, etc.

Response: Speaking specifically about the three wayfinding signs in this initial deployment, each of those three will need to potentially address up to 100 endpoints.

Question 16: What is the total number of building maps that the University will need created? Further, how many total floors and how many orientations will vendors need to create? What type(s) of mapping will the University need (3D, 2D Perspective of 2D Flat)?

Response: See response to question 11. One building, three floors. As to types of mapping, each proposal will be considered on its merits and capabilities.

Question 17: Are vendors to assume interactivity on the meeting room signs and the general information signs for proposal/estimate purposes (rather than either or)?

Response: The informational signs will not be interactive. All meeting room signs should be configurable as interactive or non-interactive.

Question 18: The recommended meeting room sign platform is iOS utilizing iPads. Is there a compelling reason that you have requested larger screens? And we would want to find out if PoE+ is a necessity, or can they get by with PoE?

Response: The sizes of the screens were chosen by the architects for aesthetic reasons, primarily. From a technical perspective, PoE+ is stated as a requirement because the network switches that are already purchased and being installed provide PoE+ levels of power; therefore, room signs which require less power will certainly be acceptable, so long as they adhere to PoE standards and will be powered by the existing network switches. MSU will not consider a solution which requires separate power-injectors for each room sign, nor will electrical power be available to room signs other than via the existing CAT6 network cable.

Question 19: Section 28. Ownership of Developed Software (source code): How flexible is the University in amending these provisions around source code, object code, and documentation of vendor's software? Would software vendors not agreeing to these provisions be grounds for disqualification? In most cases, software vendors license the software and do not transfer ownership.

Response: Section 28 only refers to software developed specifically and specially for the State. This section has no bearing on preexisting software which a vendor is simply licensing to the state.

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Brinkley at 601-432-8149 or via email at Bill.Brinkley@its.ms.gov.

cc: ITS Project File Number 40324